



# FIRE SAFETY

## **Smoke Detectors – Install & Maintain**

Smoke detectors warn you of fire in time to let you escape. Install them on every level of your home, near bedrooms and in every bedroom or sleeping area. Follow the manufacturer's directions and test them often. Replace batteries when you set your clocks to spring forward or fall back, or when the detector warns the battery is getting low.

## **Your Escape – Plan & Practice**

If fire breaks out in your home, get out fast. With your family, plan two ways out of every room. Crawl low and under the smoke. Choose a place outside where everyone knows to meet. Once you are out, call 9-1-1 and stay out! Have the whole family practice the escape plan at least twice a year and at different times of the day. Teach children what smoke alarms sound like and what to do when they hear one.

If your clothes catch fire, DON'T RUN! Stop where you are, drop to the ground, and roll over and over to smother the flames. Cover your face with your hands to protect your face and lungs.

## **Carbon Monoxide – Kills**

Install carbon monoxide alarms on every level of your home and outside bedrooms. If the carbon monoxide alarm sounds, leave the home immediately. NEVER use a generator, grill, camp stove or other gasoline, propane, natural gas or charcoal-burning devices inside a home, garage, basement, crawlspace or any other partially enclosed area.

## **Candles – Practice Safety**

The popularity of candles as home decorations in recent years has resulted in an increase of candle related fires. Never leave a lit candle unattended in any room of your house! Never leave candles burning when you go to bed! Never use candles near combustible materials such as curtains, drapes, bedding and cabinets!

## **Space Heaters – Need Space**

Keep portable space heaters at least 3 feet from paper, curtains, furniture, clothing, bedding or anything else that can burn. Never leave heaters on when you leave your home or go to bed, and keep children and pets away from them.

## **Cooking – Be Careful**

Keep cooking areas clear of combustibles like pot holders, towels and plastic; and don't leave cooking pots unattended. Keep handles turned inward so children won't knock or pull them over the edge of the stove. If grease catches fire, turn the burner off and then carefully slide a lid over the pan to smother the flames.

## **Matches – A Tool for Adults**

Matches and lighters are extremely dangerous in the hand of a child. Store them up high where kids can't reach them, and teach your children from the start that matches and lighters are tools for adults, not toys for kids.

## **Electricity – Use Safely**

If an appliance smokes or begins to smell unusual, unplug it immediately and have it repaired. Check all your electrical cords, and replace any that are cracked or frayed. Extension cords are meant for temporary use. If you use extension cords, replace any that are cracked or frayed; and don't overload them or run them under rugs. Remember that fuses and circuit breakers protect you from fire - don't tamper with the fuse box or use fuses of an improper size.